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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of

John E. Mercer

Serial No: 09/898,989

Filed: July 3, 2001

For: BORING TOOL CONTROL USING
REMOTE LOCATOR

Examiner: Sunil Singh

Art Unit: 3673

Attorney Docket: DCI-15C2

Date: April 29, 2002

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231 on April 29, 2002.

Signed:

Jay R Beyer

Amendment A

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

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The following amendments and remarks are intended as a full and complete response to the outstanding Office Action dated (mailed) January 30, 2002.

In the Abstract of Disclosure

Please replace the original Abstract of Disclosure with the following:

A drilling system performs underground boring using a drill rig and a boring tool which is configured for moving through the ground under control of the drill rig to form an underground bore. A monitoring arrangement, forming part of the system, includes a detection arrangement at the drill rig for monitoring at least one operational parameter to produce a data signal relating to at least one of a utility to be installed in the underground bore, the drill rig and the boring tool. A portable device forms another part of the system for receiving the data signal relating to the operational parameter for use by the portable device. A communication arrangement, for example using telemetry, transfers the data signal from the drill rig to the portable device. The operational parameter may be monitored for the purpose of preventing equipment failure.

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In the Drawings

A revised copy of Figure 4 has been provided with changes denoted in red. Formal substitute drawings will be submitted upon approval of the revised Figure 4 by the Examiner.

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